

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (canceled).

18. (new): A foot-wear comprising a sole (3; 30) made of synthetic material, the sole (3; 30) having

a rearfoot region, a forefoot region and an instep region between the rearfoot and the forefoot regions, each of said regions having two respective lateral portions and one medial portion between the lateral portions, each of said portions extending in a longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30);

sole stiffening means comprising a one-piece insert consisting of a wire member (4) having a length and being shaped to define a first end portion (A) of the insert, a second end portion (P) of the insert and an intermediate portion (M) of the insert between the first and second end portions thereof (A, P), the wire member (4) having a plurality of intermediate bends (4A) to define a plurality of wire portions (4B, 4D) along the length of the wire member (4);

wherein the intermediate portion (M) of the insert includes a plurality of first intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4) to define at least one pair of first wire portions (4B) arranged side by side in a transverse direction of the sole (3; 30), the first wire portions (4B) of the respective pair being consecutive and separated from each other by a respective one of

said first intermediate bends (4A), the first wire portions (4B) extending in the medial portion of said instep region of the sole (3; 30) in a substantially longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30); and

wherein the first end portion (A) of the insert includes a plurality of second intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4) to define at least one pair of second wire portions (4D) arranged side by side in longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30), the second wire portions (4D) of the respective pair being consecutive and separated from each other by a respective one of said second intermediate bends (4A), the second wire portions (4D) extending between the lateral portions of a respective one of said rearfoot and forefoot regions, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30).

19. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the first end portion (A) of the insert is at said forefoot region of the sole (3; 30) and the second end portion (P) of the insert is at said rearfoot region of the sole (3; 30), the second end portion (P) of the insert including at least one third wire portion (4D) extending between the lateral portions of said rearfoot region, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30).

20. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the sole (3; 30) has an outer peripheral edge and the insert does not extend beyond said edge.

21. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the wire member (4) has two longitudinal ends, one end being at the first end portion (A) of the insert and the other end being at the second end portion (P) of the insert.

22. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the wire member (4) has two longitudinal ends and has a respective bend (4C) at each of said ends.

23. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the sole (3; 30) has lower studs (3A; 3B) and the insert is arranged such that a plurality of the bends (4A, 4C) of the wire member (4) are each at a position corresponding to a respective one of said studs (3A; 3B).

24. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said first intermediate bends (4A) are substantially C-shaped or U-shaped bends or V-shaped.

25. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said second intermediate bends (4A) are substantially C-shaped or U-shaped bends or V-shaped.

26. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said first end portion (A) of the insert is at said forefoot region of the sole (3; 30) and includes at least four of said second intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4), to define at least five of said second wire portions (4D) forming four of said pairs, each of said at least four second wire portions (4D)

extending between the lateral portions of said forefoot region, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30).

27. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said intermediate portion (M) of the insert includes two of said first intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4), to define at least three of said first wire portions (4B) forming two of said pairs, each of said first wire portions (4B) extending in the medial portion of the instep region of the sole (3; 30) in a substantially longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30).

28. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 19, wherein said second end portion (P) of the insert includes a single said third wire portion (4D) extending between the lateral portions of said rearfoot region, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30).

29. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the wire member (4) is a metal wire.

30. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said second wire portions (4B) are substantially rectilinear.

31. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein said first wire portions (4B) are substantially rectilinear.

32. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 19, wherein said at least one third wire portion (4B) is substantially rectilinear.

33. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the sole (3; 30) is a lower sole of the foot-wear.

34. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 18, wherein the sole (3; 30) is an intermediate sole of the foot-wear.

35. (new): A foot-wear comprising a sole (3; 30) made of synthetic material, the sole (3; 30) having

a rearfoot region, a forefoot region and an instep region between the rearfoot and the forefoot regions, each of said regions having two respective lateral portions and one medial portion between the lateral portions, each of said portions extending in a longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30);

sole stiffening means comprising a one-piece insert consisting of a wire member (4) having a length and being shaped to define a first end portion (A) of the insert, a second end portion (P) of the insert and an intermediate portion (M) of the insert between the first and second end portions thereof (A, P), the wire member (4) having a plurality of bends (4A) to define a plurality of wire portions (4B, 4D) along the length thereof;

wherein the intermediate portion (M) of the insert includes a plurality of first intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4) to define at least one pair of first wire portions

(4B) arranged side by side in a transverse direction of the sole (3; 30), the first wire portions (4B) of the respective pair being consecutive and separated from each other by a respective one of said first intermediate bends (4A), the first wire portions (4B) extending in the medial portion of said instep region of the sole (3; 30) in a substantially longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30);

wherein the first end portion (A) of the insert includes a plurality of second intermediate bends (4A) of the wire member (4) to define at least one pair of second wire portions (4D) arranged side by side in a longitudinal direction of the sole (3; 30), the second wire portions (4D) of the respective pair being consecutive and separated from each other by a respective one of said second intermediate bends (4A), the second wire portions (4D) extending side by side between the lateral portions of said forefoot region, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30); and

wherein the second end portion (P) of the insert is at said rearfoot region of the sole (3; 30) and included at least one third wire portion (4D) extending between the lateral portions of said rearfoot region, to cross the medial portion thereof, in a substantially transverse direction of the sole (3; 30).

36. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 35, wherein said second intermediate bends (4A) are substantially C-shaped or U-shaped bends or V-shaped.

37. (new): The foot-wear according to claim 36, wherein the sole (3; 30) has an outer peripheral edge and the insert does not extends beyond said edge.